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ABSTRACT

This compendium summarizes the results of the Division of Children and Youth Policy's research projects from 1986 through August, 1990, and highlights future plans. The role of research in the division is to produce information on the organization, financing, and delivery of services to children and families, particularly those who are disadvantaged. Recent work has centered on issues related to the expansion of Head Start and the child care components of the JOBS program. Special studies have focused on the process of developing an understanding of the needs of children who test positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and children who have been exposed to drugs. The division is also pursuing several projects related to identifying and promoting family strengths. Contents are divided into five subject areas: (1) child care, child development, Head Start; (2) child abuse and neglect, child welfare, foster care; (3) adolescents; (4) family; and (5) miscellaneous. Each subject area is discussed in terms of completed, ongoing, and planned projects. Project descriptions include the title of the study, principal investigator, an abstract of the subject matter, the project completion date, and a division contact person. (RH)

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RESEARCH ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

1986-1990

PS 019316

Sponsored by
The Division of Children and Youth Policy

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
August 1990

INTRODUCTION

This compendium is published by the Division of Children and Youth Policy within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). It summarizes the results of the Division's research projects from 1986 through the present and highlights future plans.

The role of research within the Division is to produce information on the organization, financing, and delivery of services to children and families, particularly among disadvantaged groups. Recent work has centered on issues related to implementing the expansion of Head Start and the child care components of the JOBS program. Special studies have focused on understanding the needs of drug exposed and HIV-positive children. The division is also pursuing several projects related to identifying family strengths and ways to promote them.

ORGANIZATION

This compendium is divided into five subject areas:

I Child Care/Child Development/Head Start
II Child Abuse and Neglect/Child Welfare/Foster Care
III Adolescents
IV Family
V Miscellaneous

Each subject area is subdivided into (A) Completed or Ongoing Projects and (B) Planned Projects.

Project descriptions include the title of the study, principal investigator, an abstract of the subject matter, the project completion date, and a division contact person. To obtain a copy of the final report for completed studies, the reader should contact:

Policy Information Center
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Room 438-F, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
(202) 245-6445

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Brenda Veazey
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Room 410-E, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
(202) 245-6613

I CHILD CARE/CHILD DEVELOPMENT/HEAD START

A. COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROJECTS

TITLE: *Day Care Centers: 1976-1984, Has Supply Kept Up With Demand?*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: William R. Prosser, ASPE

SYNOPSIS: This paper analyzes the growth of day care center capacity in the United States over two points in time, 1976 and 1984, and compares it to the change in potential demand for day care caused by the increased numbers of mothers with young children who were in the labor force. It concludes that day care center supply increased more than the number of young children who have mothers in the labor force.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: May 1986

TITLE: *Usage of Different Types of Child Care: An Analysis of the SIPP Data Base*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Lorelei R. Brush
Analysis Research and Training

SYNOPSIS: This report uses data from Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to defend the theory that the availability of child care providers and the affordability of different care arrangements together predict the kinds of care families use. The report differentiates the sorts of families who use informal child-care (care by a child's parents, siblings, grandparents or other relatives) from those using more formal arrangements (care by nonrelatives in homes or day care facilities) and those who pay for care from those who do not pay. The report notes that SIPP only analyzes what child care parents use, not what care they prefer. Policy planners must know the parents' preferences in order to apply the SIPP information to predict child care patterns among participants in Federal programs.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: October 1987

TITLE: *Child Care Used by Working Women in the AFDC Population: An Analysis of the SIPP Data Base*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Lorelei R. Brush
Analysis, Research and Training

SYNOPSIS: This report argues that, if current behavior is indicative of future behavior, then about half of new AFDC participants will choose informal care for their children. The expenses of parents who use informal care, which is usually free or inexpensive, will be covered by current program expenditures. The analysis is based on Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data on child care for working guardians on AFDC. These data can help work/welfare program planners determine child care requirements for new initiatives encouraging AFDC recipients to work.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: October 1987

TITLE: *Synthesis of Research on Child Care Utilization Patterns*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Sharon McGroder, ASPE

SYNOPSIS: This paper synthesizes findings on current and trends in child care usage patterns among employed mothers of preschoolers (less than 6 years old). It summarizes the types, duration, and expenditures on arrangements using the Current Population Surveys (1958, 1965, 1977, 1982), the National Survey of Family Growth (1982) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data (Winter 1984-1985).

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE (202) 245-1808

COMPLETION DATE: February 1988

TITLE: *An Evaluability Assessment of Child Care Options for Work-Welfare Programs*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Maximus, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: Initiated before the passage of the Family Support Act in 1988, this study was designed to (1) identify the relationship of child care practices, issues, and barriers to welfare reform and work-welfare programs in selected states, and (2) explore the linkages between Head Start programs and child care as supportive services to low-income and AFDC families.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE, (202) 245-1808

COMPLETION DATE: April 1988

TITLE: *Differences in Overall Spending Patterns and Spending on Child Care by Family Type: An Exploratory Study Using the Consumer Expenditure Survey*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Data Resources/McGraw-Hill

SYNOPSIS: This report presents the results of an exploratory study which identifies data items from the Consumer Expenditures Survey (CES) useful for the analysis of child-care spending and its impact on overall spending patterns. The authors created a data base out of selected family demographic and expenditure information contained in the CES. This report illustrates the potential uses of the data base and does not present a comprehensive analysis of child-care related spending behavior. It also evaluates the study and discusses alternative approaches for future research using the data base.

CONTACT PERSON:Sharon McGroder, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE:January 1989

TITLE: *The Child Care Challenge: What Parents Need and What Is Available in Three Metropolitan Areas*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This report presents the findings of a survey conducted to meet the informational needs of the Teenage Parent Demonstration and to address the broader issues associated with the nature of child care markets. The Teenage Parent Demonstration, initiated in 1986, is a study designed to learn more about child care needs and available supply of care for low-income and welfare mothers. The report describes the sample design of the survey, its results concerning the supply of child care and the need for child care, and a multivariate analysis of child care mode choice and expenditures. Data for the analysis was gathered in Camden, New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey, and South Chicago, Illinois.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: February 1989

TITLE: *Quality in Child Care: What It Is and How It Can Be Encouraged: A Speech for the Family Impact Seminar*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Ann Segal, ASPE

SYNOPSIS: This speech briefly describes several issues concerning the regulation of child care including: who should regulate child care, whether standards effectively improve quality, how child care has been regulated since the late 1800s, current regulation practices, and how current child care legislation addresses regulation. The author concludes that in order to improve the quality of day care environments, there should be training and technical assistance for providers, and parents must be taught how to choose a good provider and then act accordingly.

CONTACT PERSON: Ann Segal, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: May 1989

B. PLANNED PROJECTS

TITLE: *Child Care and Self-Sufficiency: Choices of AFDC Mothers*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Doug Wolf and Freya Sonenstein,
Urban Institute

SYNOPSIS: This grant supported analyses of the Child Care and Self-Sufficiency and Massachusetts ET Choices databases. This research explored (1) the types of child care chosen by mothers receiving public assistance, (2) the relationship between choice of arrangements and type of productive activity (education, training, or employment), (3) how these mothers' decisions concerning care and productive activity are influenced by stated child care preferences and perceptions about the availability of care, and (4) which factors predict the durability of child care arrangements and productive activity over time.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE (202) 245-1808

COMPLETION DATE: May 1990

TITLE: *Infant Attachment Seminar*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: To be determined

SYNOPSIS: As states implement the Family Support Act and Congress considers alternative child care policies, policy-makers should be compelled to ask: What effect does early, extended non-parental care have on the infant's development? The contractor selected under this procurement will be responsible for conducting a literature review on infant attachment theory research and for convening a seminar comprised of noted researchers and clinicians addressing infant attachment theory. These experts will identify gaps in the infant attachment research and propose a research agenda. The seminar will be integrative, seeking to draw upon the contributions of research developmentalists, the behavioral tradition, and the psychodynamic orientation. The literature review and research agenda resulting from this seminar will be an important first step to answering this important question.

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon McGroder, ASPE, (202) 245-1808

COMPLETION DATE: January, 1991

II CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT/CHILD WELFARE/FOSTER CARE

A. COMPLETED OR ONGOING PROJECTS

TITLE: ***State Child Welfare Abstracts 1980-1985***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Maximus, Inc.

This document tabulates and provides limited analysis of state child welfare data from the Voluntary Cooperative Information System maintained by the American Public Welfare Association under contract to HHS. States are profiled regarding substitute care, child welfare programs, children and youth, and state characteristics. A national summary is also included. VCIS is an integrated data base on foster care, adoption, child maltreatment, and related socio-demographic data.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: December 1987

TITLE: ***AIDS Children and Child Welfare***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Macro Systems, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This report summarizes the results of a brief, exploratory study undertaken to obtain an initial understanding of the prevailing issues of HIV infected children and the child welfare system. The objectives of the study were to summarize what was known about the natural history of HIV infected children and the types of non-medical services appropriate to them, define service and financing policy issues, describe how the three cities with the highest incidence of HIV infected children were coping with their care, and to describe exemplary practices and responses that appeared to be working in each city.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: March 1988

TITLE: *Analysis of Child Welfare Services Expenditure Data and Child Care Expenditure Data -- Phase II Report*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: American Public Welfare Association

SYNOPSIS: This report contains the results of the second phase of the child welfare expenditure data clarification study as conducted by the American Public Welfare Association. The study addresses two questions: what were the total estimated Federal, State and local expenditures for child welfare and child day care services for 1984 and 1985? and what were the reported expenditures for six child welfare services for 1984 and 1985? The data on child welfare and child day care services expenditures was assembled from information reported by 42 states through the Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS).

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: September 1988

TITLE: *Infants and Young Children with HIV Infection in Foster Care*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Macro Systems, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: Approximately 800 HIV-infected children nationally were in foster care placement as of June 1989. This study was designed to define the specific problems related to providing foster care to children with HIV infection. A major element of the project was to conduct site visits to areas with a high incidence of AIDS in children and to learn how organizations have grappled with the issues of providing foster care for HIV-infected children.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: September 1989

TITLE: *The Federal Role in Foster Care: A Paper on Current Priority Issue Areas*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Karl Ensign, ASPE

SYNOPSIS: This report uses interviews with staff of the Department of Health and Human Services, pertinent legislative committees, and children and youth advocacy organizations in order to express how each group would like to change the existing foster care system. Systemic and social factors currently challenging the foster care system are described including: the increase in substantiated child abuse cases, the breakdown of the child welfare system, drug abuse, AIDS, and family homelessness. Finally, the report presents a number of unresolved policy issues regarding foster care.

CONTACT PERSON: Karl Ensign, ASPE (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: September 1989

TITLE: ***Reliability and Validity of the National Incidence of Child Abuse and Neglect Study Conducted by Westat Associates in 1988: Methodological Review***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Deborah Daro,
National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse

SYNOPSIS: This report summarizes a methodological review of the Study of the National Incidence of Child Abuse and Neglect of 1988 (NIS-2) and highlights the review's implications. The review includes an analysis by two expert statisticians concerning the validity of NIS-2 and the reliability of its results, alternative explanations of the data posed by several child abuse researchers and policy makers, and a secondary analysis of the NIS data which determines its utility to address key policy and program issues. The report identifies a number of possible problems with NIS-2 and recommends ways to increase the accuracy and effectiveness of future studies on child maltreatment.

CONTACT PERSON: Karl Ensign, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: May 1990

TITLE: ***Data Analysis Comparing the Characteristics, Needs, Services and Outcomes of Black Children in Foster Care for Whom Drug Use Was and Was Not a Contributing Factor in Placement***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Clarice Walker, Howard University for
The National Black Child Development Institute

SYNOPSIS: Over the past several years child welfare agencies have found themselves overwhelmed by the abused, neglected, and sometimes abandoned children of substance abusers. This study will utilize a database on black children in foster care collected by the National Black Child Development Institute to compare whether or not there are differences in the characteristics, needs, services and outcomes for children depending on whether or not parental drug use was a contributing factor for their foster care placements.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Feig, ASPE, (202) 245-6613

COMPLETION DATE: December 1990

TITLE: ***Public Policy and the Dynamics of Foster Care***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Robert Goerge, University of Chicago
Rosemary Sarri, University of Michigan
Friedhelm Wulczyn, SUNY-Albany

SYNOPSIS: This project analyzes the dynamics of foster care caseloads in three states: New York, Illinois, and Michigan. It represents an attempt to track individual children in and out of the foster care system and will analyze variables such as the age and other demographics of entrants, the incidence of recidivism, and the reasons for placement. Several products are likely to result from this study, including a data summary, a report on policy implications, and a technical report regarding the conversion of a state data system into one which can yield sophisticated event-history analyses. Details are still to be determined.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: To be determined

III ADOLESCENTS

A. COMPLETED OR ONGOING PROJECTS

TITLE: ***Young Unwed Fathers: Research Review, Policy Dilemmas, and Options***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Jacqueline Smollar and Theodora Ooms, Family Impact Seminar

SYNOPSIS: This report summarizes the results of a conference held in October 1986 regarding research conducted on young unwed fathers. Included are available information regarding the scope of the issue as well as information about programs and policies which affect these fathers and their children.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: October 1987

TITLE: ***Changes in Marriage and Fertility Behavior: Behavior Versus Attitudes of Young People***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kristin A. Moore and Thomas M. Stief, Child Trends, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This report examines a variety of data regarding current trends in adolescents' sexual, fertility, and marital behavior and discusses evidence regarding the permanence of these trends. Behavioral data are compared with attitudinal measures to conclude that there are significant differences between the conduct and values of young adults. The report suggests that policies which can bring adolescents' actions in line with their attitudes may be able to affect the disturbing increases in adolescent sex, premarital sex, abortion, non-marital childbearing, and divorce.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: July 1989

IV FAMILY

A. COMPLETED OR ONGOING PROJECTS

TITLE: ***A Partial Listing of Problems Facing American Children, Youth, and Families***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: SysteMetrics/McGraw-Hill

SYNOPSIS: This collection of brief issue papers uses diverse data to describe 15 major problems facing American children and families. Each paper summarizes the state of knowledge about the scope of the problem, trends, current government expenditures, costs per case, effectiveness of current intervention strategies and public attitudes about the problem areas. The report address issues of: child health, adolescents in trouble, child welfare services, lack of child care, lack of early childhood education, lack of child support and homelessness.

CONTACT PERSON: Ann Segal, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: August 1989

TITLE: ***Identifying Successful Families: An Overview of Constructs and Selected Measures***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Maria Krysan, Kristin A. Moore, and Nicholas Zill
Child Trends, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This report is a literature review and synthesis of research conducted on successful families. Discussions include issues of defining successful families and measures which can be used to identify them, methodological issues in research regarding families, and issues relevant to the application of findings.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: May 1990

TITLE: ***Research on Successful Families***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Maria Krysan, Kristin A. Moore, and Nicholas Zill
Child Trends, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This report summarizes the results of a conference regarding research being conducted on successful families. At the conference thirteen of the leading researchers in the field came together to describe their work and define outstanding research issues.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: May 1990

B. PLANNED PROJECTS

TITLE: ***Impact of the JOBS Program on Children and Families***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Child Trends, Inc. (under subcontract to the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation).

SYNOPSIS: Based on a report of feasibility, this longitudinal evaluation will be conducted as a complement to the core JOBS program evaluation. JOBS participants and their children will be followed for five years to assess impacts of the mothers' participation on their children. Social, emotional, cognitive, and health outcomes will be measured.

CONTACT PERSON: Ann Segal, ASPE (202) 245-1805.

COMPLETION DATE: Feasibility Study – Fall 1990
Interim Impact Report -- 1995
Final Impact Report -- 1998

TITLE: ***Improving Federal Statistics on Families: Social Strengths and Pathologies***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Child Trends, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: Available statistical data about the U.S. population are often not being analyzed and presented in ways that would be most useful to agencies, groups and individuals that are concerned with family issues. This report will present the results of an attempt to classify and categorize family data available in national surveys and identify measures that appear to be the most valid and most feasible for inclusion in future surveys.

CONTACT PERSON: Gerald Silverman, ASPE, (202) 245-1805

COMPLETION DATE: March 1991

V MISCELLANEOUS

A. COMPLETED OR ONGOING PROJECTS

TITLE: Drug Exposed Children: Service Needs and Policy Questions

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Laura Feig, ASPE

SYNOPSIS: Substance abuse among adults affects not only the individuals taking drugs, but also their families. Particularly devastating is the harm caused by a pregnant substance abuser to her unborn child. This paper was written to bring together available information on the conditions and needs of drug exposed children, federal programs which affect their well being, and outstanding policy questions which must be resolved in the coming months and years.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Feig, ASPE, (202) 245-6613

COMPLETION DATE: January 1990 with regular updates

B. PLANNED PROJECTS

TITLE: ***Drug Exposed Infants and Young Children: Model Service Practices***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Macro Systems, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This study aims to document model programs and practices for serving drug exposed children and their families in four cities. Child welfare issues will be the particular focus of this effort which will include site visits but will not rigorously evaluate programs. Program characteristics will be described including: program goals, population served, how children are discovered and referred to the program, services and referrals provided, collaborations with other service systems, staffing, program costs, funding sources, and any available outcome data.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Feig, ASPE, (202) 245-6613

COMPLETION DATE: December 1990

TITLE: *Homeless Families with Children: Programmatic Responses by Five Communities*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Macro Systems, Inc.

SYNOPSIS: This study will involve information gathering and site visits to five cities that have a planned configuration of services and programmatic systems in place to provide support to homeless families. Although it is not the aim of this study to rigorously evaluate these sites, the contractor will determine what aspects of the programs and practices seem especially promising in helping families achieve self sufficiency.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Feig, ASPE, (202) 245-6613

COMPLETION DATE: February 1991

TITLE: *Medically Based Programs Serving Maternal Drug Abusers and Their Children: A Survey of NIDA Grantees*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: To Be Determined

SYNOPSIS: This report will analyze the results of a survey of programs serving drug abusing women and their children. The survey will ask programs about the services they provide, referrals to other services, and characteristics of the families they serve. The data should help policy makers better understand who these women and children are, what services they need, and whether they utilize Federal assistance programs. Providers surveyed will be located in a variety of cities and are conducting either epidemiological or clinical research supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Feig, ASPE, (202) 245-6613

COMPLETION DATE: Spring 1991